

Appl. No. 10/821,538

Amendment dated March 17, 2005

Reply to Office Action dated January 3, 2005

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.- 20. (cancelled)

21. (new) An apparatus for applying a polymer to a substrate, said apparatus comprising:

- a) means to melt said polymer on demand;
- b) a pumping means used to transport said molten polymer to an extrusion device;
- c) at least one casting drum for extrusion of the molten polymer thereon;
- d) a plurality of movable dies cooperatively forming an encapsulation region
- e) means for holding and pumping an active fill material;
- f) means for holding and pumping a placebo fill material; and
- g) a valved injection wedge disposed between said encapsulation region and said

means for holding and pumping fill material, adapted to switch between the placebo fill material and the active fill material.

22. (new) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said means to melt said polymer on demand comprises a melt grid.

23. (new) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said pumping means used to transport said molten polymer is a positive displacement pump.

24. (new) The apparatus of claim 22 additionally comprising a reservoir means disposed between said means to melt said polymer and said extrusion device.

25. (new) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said extrusion device comprises a chamber and an extrusion slot.

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26. (new) The apparatus of claim 23 additionally comprising at least two fill hoppers at least two sets of fill lines.

27. (new) The apparatus of claim 26 additionally comprising at least two sets of return lines.